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Periscoping the Nation

Labor Boss Quits Castro
The Admiral and the Press
Warlike Switch on '48
Who'd Give More to NATO

The Inside Story

CAPITOL HILL — One of Castro's top intelligence agents, José Perez Novas, has defected and is being quizzed right now by U.S. officials. He's naming names of Castro spies in this country and those with whom they've been working.

NEW YORK CITY — Another important Castro ally, THE PERISCOPE learns, also has changed his mind and is now fighting with rebel forces in the Escambray Mountains. He's David Salvador, fiery young secretary-general of the big Confederation of Cuban Workers.

NIXON HEADQUARTERS — Asked by a Republican campaign official to hold a news conference on the red-hot Quemoy-Matsu issue (see page 37), Adm. Arthur Radford snapped: "Hell no. Ninety per cent of the reporters are left-wing and on the other side." Radford, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs, now head of the GOP's Retired Servicemen's Committee, agreed instead to write a statement for party use.

Campaign Close-up

LOS ANGELES — He's not about to fire brother Teddy, who is now in charge, but Bobby Kennedy plans to take over personal direction of the Kennedy campaign for California's 32 electoral votes. Bobby's unhappy about the arrangements Teddy made for Jack's last California swing, also thinks Teddy has failed to get local political clubs working hard enough for Jack.

CAPITOL HILL — A frowning GOP Congressional campaign adviser was worrying out loud: "In 1948, our state leaders kept reporting that local candidates were in trouble but Dewey would do fine. Now, they're telling us our local candidates are doing OK, but Nixon is weaker than we thought."

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT — Banned by Nixon-Lodge campaign advisers, Agriculture Secretary Benson nevertheless will speak out strongly for the GOP ticket in a series of "non-

political" talks. He'll address farm organizations in such key states as Michigan, Florida, and Ohio between now and Election Day.

PENTAGON — If elected, Kennedy would not push for merging the armed forces into a single service under one chief of staff. Navy brass, who are most apprehensive over such a merger, have just been assured of this by Kennedy insiders.

Pentagon Pipeline

WHITE HOUSE — The U.S. is absolutely tops in weapon technology. That was Ike's buoyant sum-up at the end of a two-hour breakfast meeting last week with his chief scientific aides. They reviewed the B-70 and ICBM programs and the Samos and Midas "seeing-eye" satellites. The aides, who must help keep the U.S. ahead: Pentagon research boss Herbert York, George Kistiakowsky, Ike's special science adviser, and his former science adviser, James Killian.

FORT SILL, OKLA. — Project Vela, the U.S. program to perfect detection of underground atomic blasts, will get under way within the next few weeks at a test range near here. Small chemical explosions will be used.

PENTAGON — There'll be a cutback in the 1,000-odd ICBM's that military brass planned to install in underground launchers and on special missile trains by 1965. The reason has nothing to do with budget balancing. What is it? A recently completed mathematical study shows that the continental U.S. and its railroad networks aren't big enough. With that many missiles, geographical dispersion would be inadequate and some ICBM's would be sitting ducks for enemy attack.

Where Are They Now?

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Claude Batchelor, one of 23 American GIs to refuse repatriation after the Korean war and the second to change his mind and return home, shares a small apart-

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